

# Simmons delivers funds for Stonington dock

By James Schlett

The Sun Staff

STONINGTON — The town dock at the end of Pearl Street will get a stretch with a \$61,567 federal grant that U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd, presented Tuesday to officials.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Enterprise grant will help extend the timber platform by about 50 feet while also making it more assessable to people with disabilities.

"This is probably one of the most valuable views in Connecticut," said Simmons, who was standing at the dock, with boats, blue skies and Stonington Harbor around him. The Second-District Republican, who is up for re-election in November, lives in Stonington.

The U.S.D.A. gave the town a \$23,448 grant for the dock in the 2003 fiscal year, and the state Department of Environmental Protection two years ago also provided \$25,000 for the project. Along

with extension project, some of the funding will go toward upgrading the electrical system that fisherman use near the dock.

"I can't wait until we have a ribbon cutting for this," said acting First Selectman William S. Brown.

Construction on the dock should begin in April and

may be completed by the autumn of 2005.

The dock is supposed to provide people with a safe place to watch the surrounding operations of Stonington's fishing fleet, which includes 35 businesses and employs 133 people.

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